

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, UY

SUBJECT: MENDEZ ANNOUNCES CABINET WITH FIVE NEW MEMBERS

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 3003 (NOTAL), (B) MONTEVIDEO 3026 (NOTAL),
(C) MONTEVIDEO 3130

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT-ELECT MENDEZ, LATE ON AUGUST 27, ANNOUNCED HIS CABINET. THERE WERE NO SURPRISES AS MOST HAD BEEN MADE PUBLIC PREVIOUSLY. HOWEVER, THE PUBLIC WAS INFORMED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE VEGH WAS BEING REPLACED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MENDEZ CABINET WAS ANNOUNCED THE EVENING OF AUGUST 27. MINISTERS CARRIED OVER TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ARE LINARES, INTERIOR, BLANCO, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RAVENNA, DEFENSE, AZNAREZ, AGRICULTURE, DARRACQ, EDUCATION AND ETCHEVERRY, LABOR. NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTERS INCLUDE A. VALENTIN ARISMENDI, ECONOMY AND FINANCE, ING. EDUARDO SAMPSON, TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS, DR. ANTONIO CANELLAS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND ING. QUIM. (CHEMICAL ENGINEER) LUIS MEYER, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY. AIR FORCE BRIGADIER JOSE CARDOZO WAS NAMED SECRETARY OF PLANNING, COORDINATION AND INFORMATION (DIFUSION) AND GIVEN CABINET RANK. THE MINISTRY OF

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HOUSING AND SOCIAL PROMOTION IS BEING ABOLISHED AND ITS FUNCTIONS

ASSUMED BY OTHER AGENCIES.

3. VEGH'S DEPARTURE HAD BEEN WIDELY ANTICIPATED IN INFORMED CIRCLES AND THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT MAY BE MINIMAL. THE GENERAL PUBLIC, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN TOLD NOTHING APART FROM AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENCY SOME DAYS AGO DENYING RUMORS THAT AZNAREZ, BLANCO AND VEGH WERE ABOUT TO RESIGN.

4. BRIG. CARDOZO'S NEW SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN TOUTED IN SOME QUARTERS AS A POTENTIAL SUPER-MINISTRY AS IT SUBSUMES THE FORMER OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET AND ADDS TO IT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, WHICH CARDOZO WAS NAMED TO HEAD A SHORT TIME AGO. AS OF AUGUST 27, HOWEVER, CARDOZO SAID PRIVATELY THAT HE REALLY DID NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHAT HIS NEW JOB WOULD ENTAIL. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT CARDOZO WILL BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE OF IT WHAT HE WANTS. NOT ONLY IS HE A HIGHLY CAPABLE OFFICER, BUT ALSO HE BRINGS WITH HIM INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE AS FORMER HEAD OF JOINT STAFF (ESMACO) AND SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. THIS MAN COULD PLAY A KEY ROLE IN GOVERNMENT.

5. REFTELS CARRIED BIO DATA ON THE NEW MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND INDUSTRY. A BEEFED-UP BIO ON ARISMENDI WILL BE POUCHED.
SIRACUSA

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